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FIRE ON WATERFRONT. Blaze rages out of control late last night on Portsmouth, Va., waterfront where former lower bay ferry "Accomac" was destroyed along with piers, a warehouse and other vessels. (AP Wirephoto)

# Piers, Warehouse, Ships Lost In Virginia Blaze

PORTSMOUTH, Va. (AP) — Fire fighters brought a large blaze on the Portsmouth waterfront under control early today after it had engulfed at least three piers, a warehouse and several ships.

The Portsmouth Fire Department said it brought the fire under control at 3:30 a.m. — some 4½ hours after it was discovered. But the Fire Department said the blaze continued to burn.

Assisting the Fire Department were five cutters and five patrol vessels from the Coast Guard's 5th District headquarters. Three of the cutters used high pressure nozzles as they fought the blaze from the Elizabeth River.

Burning ships were freed from piers and brought out into the middle of the river.

The fire was discovered shortly after 11 o'clock Wednesday night. Firemen were making good progress in containing it until 2 a.m. when the wind shifted to the east, fanning the flames higher.

The piers and the ferry "Accomac" were destroyed. The Accomac was in service on the Virginia Capes run before the bay bridge tunnel opened last month.

A third pier and a shoreside warehouse continued to burn shortly after 3 a.m.

Also ablaze were a Navy tank landing ship, a small utility craft, a small excursion boat and a barge carrying diesel fuel. All were tied up at the blazing piers.

The flames were reported so fierce they had driven firemen back from the only point along the shore from which sea water could be pumped.

There was no immediate reports of casualties.

Portsmouth, just across the Elizabeth River from Norfolk, is the home of one of the Navy's 11 shipyards. It was not reported affected by the blaze.

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JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—A wind-whipped fire destroyed a quarter of a mile of Hudson River waterfront on Wednesday night but appeared to be contained today, police said.

Much debris was still aflame, but the fire was "pretty well knocked down," police Lt. Edward Carroll said.

"So much debris is burning that they'll be picking it apart for a good 24 hours," Carroll said.

While the fire roared out of control it destroyed five 500-foot piers, a huge unused coal trestle and five floating bridges.

Piers Warehouse Ships Lost In Virginia Blaze

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